

In re LUCIW et al.
Serial No. 08/089,407

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[the same] with an envelope (env) antigen comprising an immunogenic amino acid sequence from the [envelope (env)] env domain of said HIV and determining whether antibodies are bound to said env antigen, the improvement comprising employing as said env antigen a synthetic [HIV] polypeptide, wherein said synthetic polypeptide is prepared by chemical synthesis.

61. (Twice Amended) A method of detecting antibodies to a human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) in a human sample comprising:

a) providing a solid support having bound thereto a synthetic [HIV] polypeptide comprising [at least an antigenic] an envelope (env) antigen comprising an immunogenic amino acid sequence of the env [portion of the envelope (env)] domain of HIV, wherein said synthetic polypeptide is prepared by chemical synthesis;

b) contacting said solid support with said human sample to provide a sample-contacted support;

c) washing said sample-contacted support to provide a washed support; and

d) determining whether human antibodies are bound to said washed support.